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*Quer Durch Mexico vom Atlantischen zum Stillen Ocean.* By Dr. Wilhelm Schiess. xiii and 234 pp., map and 71 illustrations, chiefly photographs. Dietrich Reimer (Ernest Vohsen), Berlin, 1902.

The book records the observations made by Dr. Schiess during his journey through Mexico in the winter of 1899-1900. He kept away, for the most part, from the beaten tracks and travelled with a few mules and servants through some of the lesser-known districts. His book is written on the rather unusual plan of refraining from reference to the literature on those regions, so that his work might contain nothing but his own impressions. He has keen powers of observation, a bright and vivid manner of recording what he sees, and the result is a series of glimpses along his routes of travel that are entertaining, though not scientific or thorough-going. His book would have larger value if he had combined with his own clean-cut impressions some results of the work of earlier writers, which he might have done with perfect propriety. Most of the photographs are his own, and they convey a far better idea of the variety of scenery, the incidents of travel with pack-mules and the life and industries of the common people and the Indians than is obtained from many books on Mexico. His route from Durango across the Sierra Madre to Mazatlan has perhaps never been described before, and the interesting regions he crossed between San Blas and Lake Chapala are not very well known.

*Geistige Strömungen im heutigen China.* By Dr. O. Franke. 29 pp. Berlin: Dietrich Reimer (Ernst Vohsen), 1904.

This is an interesting and able paper, read by Dr. Franke before the Berlin-Charlottenburg branch of the German Colonial Society, in which he describes some significant phases of the intellectual life of the Chinese of to-day. He treats, perhaps more comprehensively than other writers have done, of the recent reform movements in China, and of the intellectual unrest and the dissatisfaction with China's condition which have seized upon many of the educated Chinese, and particularly upon her young men who have been educated in the schools of Japan and the Occident. Dr. Franke shows how foolish, untimely, and tactless have been the rash pronunciamientos of many of the reformers. Some of them have the wildest socialistic ideas.

He adds that Europe has been mistaken in supposing that the so-called reformers are moved by impulses friendly to Western foreigners. Both the old Conservatives and the young Radicals are moved rather by fear and hatred of occidental influence and

power. They differ only as to the means to be employed to ward off the dangers which they believe threaten the integrity of their empire. The author gives many quotations from recent writings of the Progressivists, who keenly dissect the weaknesses of their country and point clearly to the dangers of longer adherence to the policy of ages. He does not venture to prophesy how it will all end, but says it behooves the Western nations to see that the gulf between them and the Chinese becomes narrower rather than wider; and he believes the influence of Japan upon her neighbour is not tending toward this desirable end.

*Geografia della Colonia Eritrea.* By Captain A. Mulazzani. 146 pp., 52 illustrations, and a map. Florence: R. Bemporad & Figlio, 1904.

This handbook is a concise and excellent summary of the geographical features of Eritrea, its climate, resources, towns, tribes, languages, and history, including the war with the Emperor Menelek and the various boundary disputes. The Government organization is outlined, and the meaning of many words in the Abyssinian, Arabic, and other languages used in the geographical nomenclature is defined. The book is worthy of an English rendering as an adequate though brief account of the little colony, whose great diversity of altitudes gives it temperate as well as torrid conditions. The map, unfortunately, is on so small a scale that many place-names mentioned in the text are not found on it.

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#### NOTES AND NEWS.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY will be held at Mendelssohn Hall, No. 119 West Fortieth Street, on Tuesday, December 20, 1904, at 8.30 o'clock P.M.

Mr. Alfred H. Brooks, of the U. S. Geographical Survey, will address the Society on the Exploration of Alaska.

MR. F. H. NICHOLS IN INDIA.—After a few weeks' stay in Burma, Mr. Nichols entered Bengal, and at the date of the last letter received from him (October 7) was at Darjiling, where he had the pleasure of meeting Col. Younghusband, lately returned from Lhasa. Darjiling is not much more than 40 miles to the southwest from Chumbi on the border of Tibet.

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U. S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES. DECISIONS, NOVEMBER 2, 1904.—ANTHONY; ponds (chain of three), tributary to Long Lake near foot, Hamilton County, N. Y. (Not S. Anthony nor St. Anthony.)